NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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Under subsection 23(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Species at Risk Committee must submit an annual report to the Conference of Management Authorities by July 1 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

THE *SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT*

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It applies in most areas of the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.

Wood bison – Photo Credit: JS Alpine Ent

THE SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

The Species at Risk Committee (the Committee) was established under the Act. It is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.

Species status assessments are done at the territorial level and results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available Aboriginal traditional knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee must use objective biological criteria in its assessments and does not consider socio-economic factors.

The Committee uses the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories for the legal list of species at risk are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. Species can also be assessed as Not at Risk or Data Deficient. The Committee identifies threats and positive influences to species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures for species at risk.

The Committee makes its recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities, a group of boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The Conference of Management Authorities includes wildlife co-management boards established under land claim and self-government agreements, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of Canada.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Species at Risk Committee members are appointed by the four wildlife co-management boards established under settled land claim and self-government agreements and the federal government. The Government of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, appoints the other members. Appointments are for up to five years.

Committee members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation. Members act independently and not as representatives of their appointing bodies.

Members:

- **Chairperson:** Mr. James Firth
- **Alternate Chairperson:** Dr. Suzanne Carrière
- Ms. Alestine Andre
- Dr. Allice Legat
- Mr. Arthur Beck
- Ms. Joanna Wilson
- Mr. Leon Andrew
- Ms. Misty Ireland
- Mr. Moise Robesca
- Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter

Alternates:

- Mr. Boyan Tracz
- Ms. Cindy Allen
- Mr. Daniel Beck
- Dr. Deborah Simmons

Biographies of members and alternates are available at **www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca**

COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2015 TO MARCH 31, 2016

The Species at Risk Committee did not release any assessment results during the reporting period. At the request of the Conference of Management Authorities, the standard assessment date was pushed from December to March/April of each year. Wood bison were assessed as threatened in April 2016, shortly after the reporting period for this annual report.

The Species at Risk Committee held two meetings in 2015-2016. It completed work on the species status report for wood bison, which was subsequently assessed as threatened in April 2016, and continued work on species status reports for barren-ground caribou, grizzly bears and bats (big brown bat, little brown myotis, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis and northern myotis), which are scheduled to be assessed in 2017.

The Committee did not receive any referrals or applications for species to be assessed under subsection 26(1) or section 27 of the Act. An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed from 2017 to 2021 was developed and submitted to the Conference of Management Authorities for approval. The assessment schedule is revised annually.

All Species at Risk Committee documents, including species status reports and assessments, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: **www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca**

Western toad - Photo Credit: R. Bertrand, ENR

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	ASSESSMENT	DATE OF ASSESSMENT
Peary caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Boreal caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Hairy braya	Threatened	December 2012
Polar bear	Special Concern	December 2012
Dolphin and Union caribou	Special Concern	December 2013
Northern leopard frog	Threatened	December 2013
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014
Western toad	Threatened	December 2014
Wood bison	Threatened	April 2016

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, provides full administrative and financial support to the Species at Risk Committee. Contracts for preparing species status reports are advertised on **www.contractregistry.nt.ca**.

Little brown myotis – Photo Credit: J. Wilson, ENR

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2021

APRIL 2017	Barren-ground caribou (except Dolphin and Union population) (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*)
	Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*)
	Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)*
	Northern myotis (bat) (*Myotis septentrionalis*)*
	Long-eared myotis (bat) (*Myotis evotis*)*
	Long-legged myotis (bat) (*Myotis volans*)*
	Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)*
	*The five bat species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.
APRIL 2018	Drummond bluebell (plant) (*Mertensia drummondii*)
	Yellow-banded bumble bee (*Bombus terricola*)*
	Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*)*
	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus bohemicus*)*
	*The three bumble bee species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.
APRIL 2019	Collared pika (*Ochotona collaris*)
	Woodland caribou (northern mountain population) (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)
APRIL 2020	American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
	Red-sided garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
APRIL 2021	Peregrine falcon *anatum-tundrius* complex (*Falco peregrinus*)
	Rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)

The Assessment Schedule is subject to annual review and modification.

CONTACT

For more information about the Species at Risk Committee and its activities, please visit our website:
www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

Or contact:
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Respectfully submitted,

James Firth, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPECIES
AT RISK
COMMITTEE

Cover Photo:
Drummond bluebell – Photo Credit: Jo Overholt